

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/PAN - S. MOREY BELL:GFH

APPROVED BY ARA-LA/PAN - S. MOREY BELL

S/AB - AMBASSADOR BUNKER (DRAFT)

NSC - MR. JORDEN (DRAFT)

ARA - AMBASSADOR BOWDLER (DRAFT)

ARA/PAF - MR. WALLACE (DRAFT)

ODUSA - AMBASSADOR KOREN (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

GOVPANCANAL IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250667

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: U.S. PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ANNOUNCEMENT
OF UNILATERAL U.S. ACTIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT NOW
SCHEDULED FOR 11:00 AM DECEMBER 28.

2. BEGIN QUOTE THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED TODAY HIS
INTENTION TO PROPOSE TO THE CONGRESS LEGISLATION DESIGNED
TO BEGIN MODERNIZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PANAMA
AND THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE CANAL ZONE,
AS A COMPLEMENT TO THE TREATY TALKS RECENTLY RESUMED IN
PANAMA CITY BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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QUOTE THOSE TALKS -- WHICH ARE CONTINUING

IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF FRIENDSHIP, CANDOR AND FLEXIBILITY -- SERVE AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE "NEW DIALOGUE" WHICH THE UNITED STATES DESIRES TO CARRY OUT WITH ITS FRIENDS IN THE AMERICAS.

QUOTE THE LEGISLATION WOULD PERMIT THE TRANSFER TO PANAMA OF TITLE AND JURISDICTION OVER OLD FRANCE FIELD, A WORLD WAR II AIRFIELD NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND DEFENSE OF THE CANAL BY THE UNITED STATES. THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO

SEEK LEGISLATION WHICH WILL PERMIT THE EVENTUAL TRANSFER TO PANAMA OF TITLE AND JURISDICTION OVER NEW FRANCE FIELD WITH EMERGENCY U.S. MILITARY USE RIGHTS AS REQUIRED. IN ADDITION, HE WILL ASK CONGRESS TO PERMIT PANAMA TO OPERATE ITS NATIONAL LOTTERY WITHIN THE ZONE.

QUOTE THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THESE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS SERVE THE PRACTICAL INTERESTS AND THE NATIONAL DIGNITY OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

QUOTE THEY WERE RECOMMENDED TO HIM BY AMBASSADOR AT LARGE ELLSWORTH BUNKER, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS AFFECTING PANAMA AND THE CANAL ZONE.

QUOTE BOTH AIRFIELDS -- "OLD FRANCE FIELD" AND "NEW FRANCE FIELD" -- ARE CLOSE TO PANAMA'S ATLANTIC PORT CITY OF COLON. THE TRANSFER OF THESE PROPERTIES TO PANAMA WOULD BENEFIT THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THAT IMPORTANT AREA OF THE COUNTRY. END QUOTE

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR CLOSE MONITORING BY EMBASSY OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REACTIONS IN PANAMA TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT. KISSINGER
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